

Wolf Pack's ready for war

By Staff Sgt. Scott Farrow
8th Fighter Wing public affairs

The Wolf Pack is prepared for the big test of its wartime capabilities, the March Pacific Air Forces Operational Readiness Inspection.

But there's no need for the troops to worry, according to the 8th Fighter Wing Inspector General, Lt. Col. Jack Roosa. The Wolf Pack impressed him with great attitude, knowledge and performance. Roosa said if the Pack continues with the same performance during the ORI, he believes the PACAF inspectors will walk away with the same impression he has.

"Overall it was an excellent exercise, and it's apparent the lessons we learned from the previous two exercises rolled over well into this exercise," Roosa said. All organizations did very well, but according to Roosa, the wing's two fighter squadrons ability to generate aircraft was exceptionally impressive.

"The 35th Fighter Squadron's aircraft generation during the Initial Response Readiness Exercise was outstanding. The 80th Fighter Squadron's sortie generation effort performed exceptionally well during the Combat Readiness Response Exercise," Roosa said.

Chief Master Sgt. Ken Augustine, 80th FS maintenance supervisor, said although new Alarm Black procedures were implemented this exercise, he was proud of the sorties generated by the Juvat troops.

"Our folks did outstanding with their ability to survive and operate and the ability to generate aircraft. We were operating under new Alarm Black procedures and I think it went well, as a testament, we were able to generate sorties."

People roaming around during Alarm Black is a concern since the implementation of new procedures prevents any outside maneuverability by anyone except for sweep teams searching for unexploded ordnances, signs of chemical contamination or other damage, and only after being given the authority to do so.

"Movement, or actually the lack of movement during Alarm Black, has improved, but everyone tasked with performing post-attack sweeps must remember to call their unit control centers before heading out the door during the alarm," he said.

After an attack, Roosa said it's the responsibility of wing leadership to make the call whether it's safe for troops to look in their areas and search for UXOs or other damage.

Other organizations impressing Roosa were the 8th Security Forces Squadron and the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight. According to Roosa, aside from the defenders doing an exceptional job taking-on opposing forces, was their ability to work with other organizations, particularly a situation involving the discovery of a suspicious package at the post office.

"The folks from EOD did a superb job," Roosa said. "I sat and watched them and from the time the package was discovered to the time it was removed and destroyed, they did everything by the textbook. It's great to see that kind of teamwork coming together in a tough situation."

Roosa also pointed out his concern for those not directly involved in the exercises. He said there is a great need for civilian employees, contractors and other non-participating parties to respect Kunsan's exercise scenarios, even if they feel they aren't threatened by a situation the troops are "playing."

"Just because it's an exercise, civilians should treat the situation just like we do—as if it were real. Please respect our cordons and exercise scenarios; we have a lot riding on the ORI, and after all, we are all part of the same team."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Morrison, 8th CS/VI

1st Lt. Chris Vance, 80th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot, loads his jet prior to takeoff.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Morrison, 8th CS/VI



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F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 8th Fighter Wing taxi to the runway during the exercise.

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